

AMERICAN SAMOA STATISTICS NEWS



Subject: 1st Quarter 2016 Consumer Price Index

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Director's Approval: _____

The All Items Index of Goods and Services measured by the Consumer Price Index in the first quarter of 2016 (January - March) registered at 131.7 points. This is 0.8 percent lower than the 4th quarter 2015. Annual Inflation Rate at -0.3 percent.

Movements of Major CPI Groups in the quarter: **Food Group** since the beginning of 2015 had gone down and again by another 0.7 percent in this quarter. Chicken wings, turkey, cracker, bread, spare ribs, steak, beef salted, eggs, taro, candies and candy bars, soy sauce, dinner, peanut butter, chips, Enfamil and pork contributed to the decline. **Alcoholic Beverages** declined slightly by 0.1 percent due to lower prices of beer. **Housing** registered the biggest drop of 1.5 percent due to lower prices of utility cost (electricity and solid waste); a 15% decline in LP gas and drop in cost of construction materials such Roofing irons, Lumber, Drywall, Plywood, Masonite and Cement. The **Apparel Group** recorded a slight increase of 0.5 percent due to higher prices of men's and boy's shorts, infant diapers and footwear. **Transportation** recorded a 0.7 percent drop due to another 15% drop in cost of gasoline (unleaded & diesel fuel). **Medical Care** went up by 0.7 percent due to increases in non-prescription drugs and other medical supplies. **Recreation** rose 0.1 percent as bicycle cost increased. **Education and Communication** remained constant throughout the quarter. **Other Goods and Services** declined by 0.9 percent due to low cost of soap, laundromat and remittances fees.

Groups	1st Qtr 2016	4th Qtr 2015	1st Qtr 2015	Quarterly Percent Chg frm Q-4 '15 to Q1- '16	Annual Percent Chg frm Q1 - '15 to Q-1 '16
All Items Index	131.7	132.7	132.1	-0.8	-0.3
Food	155.5	156.7	158.4	-0.7	-1.8
Alcoholic Beverages	127.6	127.7	128.8	-0.1	-0.9
Housing	123.9	126.1	126.9	-1.7	-2.3
Apparel	121.3	120.7	119.5	0.5	1.5
Transportation	127.6	128.5	129.7	-0.7	-1.6
Medical Care	128.0	127.1	127.1	0.7	0.7
Recreation	113.5	113.4	112.9	0.1	0.6
Education and Communication	111.4	111.1	109.3	0.0	1.6
Other Goods and Services	131.4	132.7	121.1	-0.9	8.5



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - STATISTICS DIVISION

1ST QUARTER (JAN - MAR) 2016



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Housing	123.9	126.1	126.9	-1.7	-2.3
Apparel	121.3	120.7	119.5	0.5	1.5
Transportation	127.6	128.5	129.7	-0.7	-1.6
Medical Care	128.0	127.1	127.1	0.7	0.7
Recreation	113.5	113.4	112.9	0.1	0.6
Education and Communication	111.0	111.1	109.3	0.0	1.6
Other Goods and Services	131.4	132.7	121.1	-0.9	8.5

Annual Group Change %

INFLATION RATE	-0.3
FOOD	-1.8
ALCO- BEV.	-0.9
HOUSING	-2.3
APPAREL	+1.5
TRANSPORT-	-1.6
MEDICAL CARE	+0.7
RECREATION	+0.6
EDUCATION	+1.6
OTHER	+8.5

POINT OF INTEREST

ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION:

The Annual Rate of Inflation (ARI) for the First Quarter of 2016 registered at -0.3.

QUARTER GROUP CHANGES:

Food cost has dropped by 2% since the beginning of 2015.

Unleaded gasoline dropped by 45% between 2014 and 2015. It dropped again by 6% between the last quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016.

1ST QUARTER 2016 COMPARATIVE INDEX ANALYSIS

GROUP 1: Food

recorded a 0.7 percent drop in this quarter. Cracker, bread, steak, beef salted, spare ribs, chicken wings, turkey, eggs, taro, candy bar, candies, soy sauce, soup, peanut butter, chips, Enfamil and pork all dropped

GROUP 2: Alcoholic Beverages.

declined slightly by 0.1 percent due to lower prices of beer and rum.

GROUP 3: Housing

registered a 1.5 percent drop due to low prices in electric bill, LP Gas, and Construction Materials including roofing irons, lumber, drywall, plywood, Masonite and cement.

GROUP 4: Apparel

recorded a 0.5 percent increase due to high prices of Men's casual shirts, infant diapers, boys pants, men's foot wear, women's footwear and watches.

GROUP 5: Transportation

A 0.7 percent drop because of a 15% decline cost of in gasoline.

GROUP 6: Medical Care

Recorded an increase of 0.7 percent due to higher cost of non-prescription drugs and other medications.

GROUP 7: Recreation

rose 0.1 percent due to higher price for bicycle.

GROUP 8: Education/Comm.

No change in this quarter.

GROUP 9: Other Goods/Service

Decline by 0.9 percent due to low cost of soap, laundromat and remittances fees.

The American Samoa CPI measures price changes on a quarterly and annual basis. The American Samoa Department of Commerce conducts the CPI data price collection on the 15th of the middle month of every quarter.

For more information on the CPI calculation and methodology please see Page 4 of this newsletter or call the Department of Commerce—Statistics Division at 633-5155.

COMPARATIVE INDEX ANALYSIS

Year	Qtr	All	Food	Alco	Housing	Apparel	Transpt.	Medical	Rec.	Ed /Com.	Others
2016	1	131.7	155.5	127.6	123.9	121.3	127.6	128.0	113.5	111.0	131.4
2015	4	132.7	156.7	127.7	126.1	120.7	128.5	127.1	113.4	111.1	132.7
2015	3	133.0	156.9	128.2	127.0	119.8	130.4	127.0	113.1	109.8	131.1
2015	2	132.5	157.5	128.8	125.5	119.5	130.5	127.0	112.9	107.5	129.8
2015	1	132.1	158.4	128.8	126.9	119.5	129.7	127.1	112.9	109.3	121.1

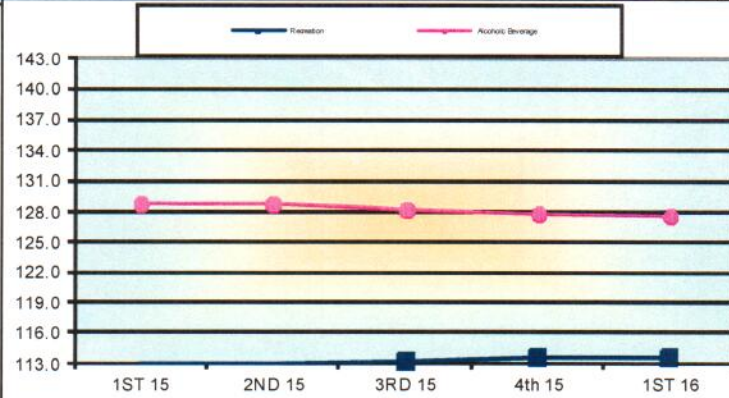
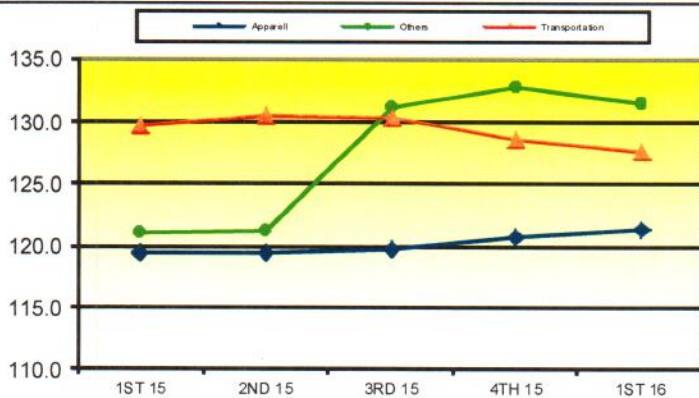
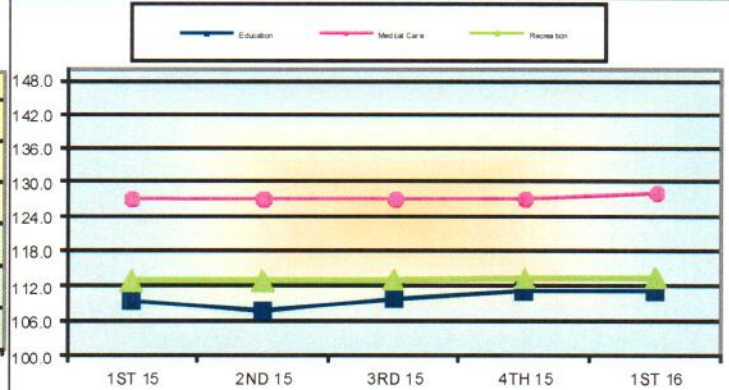
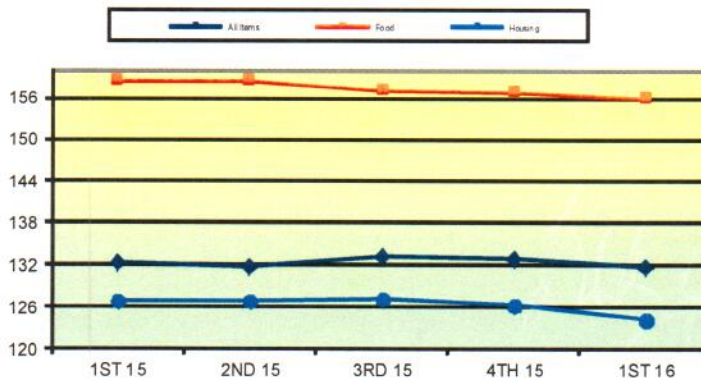
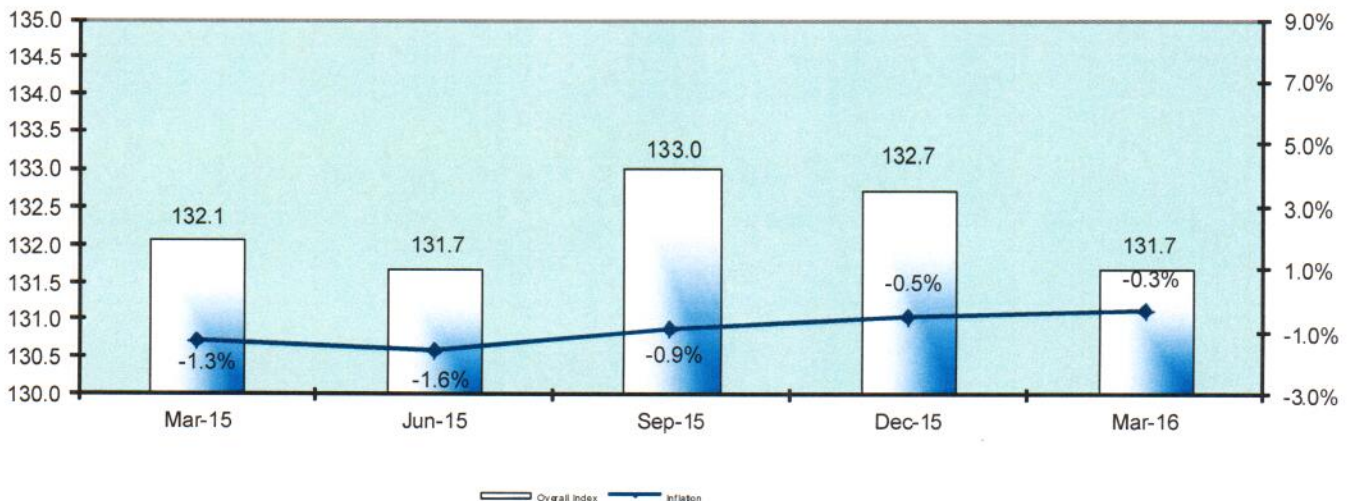


CHART 6: Overall Index vs Inflation Rate



ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES:
1st quarter 2015 - 1st quarter 2016

Commodity	Unit	AAP	AAP	QAP	QAP	QAP	QAP	QAP
		2014	2015	Q1-15	Q2-15	Q3-15	Q4-15	Q1-16
Apple (pnd)	lb	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.59
Beef (chuck)	lb	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.78	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.72	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.68
Beer, Coors Light (oz)	12 fl oz	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.48
Beer, Vailima (ml)	750 ml	\$ 2.78	\$ 19.43	\$ 19.55	\$ 19.55	\$ 19.30	\$ 19.30	\$ 2.76
Bottle (LP) gas (pnd)	30 lbs	\$ 39.00	\$ 34.75	\$ 34.75	\$ 34.75	\$ 34.75	\$ 34.75	\$ 29.75
Bread (bag)	Loaf	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.35
Butter (gm)	227 gm	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.20	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.29	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.23
Chicken Legs (quarters)	5lb Bag		\$ 5.05				\$ 5.05	\$ 4.09
Chicken-whole	lb	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.77	\$ 1.84	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.82
Cigarettes-Benson (pk)	20's	\$ 4.29	\$ 4.37	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.39	\$ 4.39	\$ 4.39	\$ 8.38
Cigarettes-Kools (pk)	20's	\$ 4.20	\$ 4.29	\$ 4.20	\$ 4.31	\$ 4.31	\$ 4.31	\$ 8.41
Coconut (each)	Each	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.44
Cooking oil btl	24 fl oz	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.28
Corned beef (can)	12 oz	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.74	\$ 3.62	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.75
Electricity (kwh)	300 kWh	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.26
Fresh eggs (dzn)	doz	\$ 1.79	\$ 1.97	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.12	\$ 2.21
Green banana (pnd)	lb	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.37
Mackerel (can)	15 oz	\$ 1.55	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.59
Milk, fresh (each)	Liter	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.81
Rice (bag)	40 lbs	\$ 25.52	\$ 26.71	\$ 26.71	\$ 26.71	\$ 26.71	\$ 26.71	\$ 27.65
Salt (gm)	700 gm	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.03	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.88	\$ 1.89
Sausage (packet)	lb	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.52	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.47
Soft-Drinks (can)	12 oz	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.67
Soy sauce (btl)	1 Gal	\$ 12.66	\$ 12.79	\$ 12.79	\$ 12.79	\$ 12.79	\$ 12.79	\$ 12.81
Spaghetti (can)	14.75 oz	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.41
Spam (can)	12 oz	\$ 3.54	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.63
Sugar (kg)	2 kg	\$ 2.94	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.37
Taro (pnd)	lb	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.33
Tuna (can)	6.5 oz	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.69	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.76
Turkey tail (bag)	lb	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.04
Unleaded Gas (Gal)	Gallon	\$ 4.07	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.65

*** AAP = ANNUAL AVERAGE PRICES

*** QAP = QUARTERLY AVERAGE PRICES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The American Samoa Consumer Price Index (CPI) is designed to measure changes in prices of commodities and services normally purchased by the consuming community. The American Samoa CPI (like the U.S. CPI) is based on the concept of representative "market basket," a sample of goods and services that the consumer purchases. The CPI was first developed during the early part of 1974. The selection of weight distribution was based on "General Statement of Articles of Import of Merchandise into American Samoa from July 1970 - June 1971". The weight distributions was later updated using household expenditure patterns derived from a household income and expenditure survey conducted by EDPO in 1982. Since then, CPI weights were later adjusted using the 1995 HIES and now the 2005 HIES. With the New CPI, a total of approximately 210 items are divided into 9 major groups and sub-groups, and indices are computed at different levels of aggregations.

Group	Weights	Allocated
Food	730	86
Housing	781	37
Apparel	308	24
Transportation	491	9
Other Goods	288	12
Alcoholic Beverages	68	2
Ed and Communication	142	11
Recreation	93	23
Medical Care	70	6

CPI CALCULATIONS METHODOLOGY

The index uses a system, which is known as Modified Laspeyres. This gives exactly the same result as an ordinary Laspeyres index, but the method of calculation is different. The formula for the Modified Laspeyres Index can be written as: $I_n = (W_{n-1} \times P_n / P_{n-1})$ where I_n is the value of the index in the current period (i.e. period 'n'), W_{n-1} is the weight (or index value) of each item in the previous period (i.e. in period 'n-1'), and the fraction P_n / P_{n-1} is the price relative for each item, between the current price (P_n) and the price in the previous quarter (P_{n-1}).

About 1100 prices are collected during the middle month of each quarter for computing the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The total number of retail outlets that provide prices to the Statistics Division data collectors each quarter is more than 125, ranging from major retailers and grocery stores to variety of services establishments such as gas stations and snack bars.

Interpreting Index Changes

In compiling the CPI, data collectors obtain prices for those items that were selected in the item sample. For each individual item, a number of prices are collected. Each quarter, data collectors attempt to price the exact same item, or if that item is not available, an item that is of the same quality as the previously priced item. Those prices that are collected in the current quarter and are also of the same quality as the items in the previous quarter are then summed. A "price relative" is calculated by dividing the total of these "paired" prices for that item by the total of the previous prices. These respective price relatives are then multiplied by the expenditure weights in the previous quarter to derive new expenditure weights. These weights are then combined into composite expenditure groups and sub-groups.

These item weights show the relative importance of each of the items in an average household's market basket. The weights were derived from the 2005 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. These products represent the relative importance of these items from one quarter to the next. By combining these products into various groups and subgroups, the Statistics Division is able to estimate the relative price changes for groups such as Food, Housing, Medical Care, etc. and even estimate the change in subgroups such as bread and cereals, fruits and vegetables, and other subgroups within each major group. As in most countries, the CPI in American Samoa is the government's principle measure of inflation or deflation. By knowing what price changes are occurring for the 9 major groups in the CPI, the government's decision makers, academics and news media can understand if retail prices are rising and how fast, and can take action to try and mitigate undesirable price changes by modifying government policies.